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Claims

1. Method for entering a word into a user interface of an electronic device, wherein the characters of said word can be selected from a character set stored in said electronic device, comprising:

    generating, for browsing, a character subset of said character set which is made up of at least one character, said character subset including characters from among which, according to an inference logic, the next character for said word is most probably selected,

    displaying said character subset on a display of said electronic device, for browsing and selecting the next character by the user,

    characterized in that said inference logic is based on a database of words and at least one usage parameter related to each of said words.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one usage parameter for a certain word is related to the individual number of occurrences of usage of said word.

3. Method according to claim 2, wherein said at least one usage parameter for a certain word is related to the individual number of occurrence of usages of said word and the total number of occurrences of words.

4. Method according to anyone of claims 1 to 3, wherein said at least one usage parameter and said words are stored in a database comprising words and said at least one usage parameter, characterized in that said method further comprises:

    adapting the contents of said database after at last one word has been selected.

5. Method according to claim 4, characterized in that said adapting of said database is performed by adding a new word to said database.

6. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, further comprising storing said selections in a log file for determining new usage parameters, and wherein said inference logic determines said subset of most probable characters by evaluating said log file.

7. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that words stored in said database of words are arranged in the form of a tree such that a root of the tree consists of a beginning of a word, the root being connected to nodes representing single characters on a next level such that on each level, potential characters are, in order of

probability, connected to a node on a previous level whereby, as the process proceeds from the root of the tree through the nodes to a node on the last level, the characters in the nodes combine to form a word in said database of words.

5   8. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that, the character subset is interlinked with the character set, in order to browse the characters on the display, such that upon browsing past the character subset, the browsing of the character set begins.

10   9. Method according anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that said input prediction with said inference logic comprises:
identifying a start of an entry of a new word,
inserting, into the character subset, the most probable letters stored in the database of words for starting a word.

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10. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that said inference logic is operated by the steps comprising:
identifying a text being entered, wherein the characters of said text relating to a word are entered,
20   identifying words being stored in said database of words that are appropriate for the word being entered, and
selecting, for the character subset, a character from each appropriate probable entry to be the possibly entered next.

25   11. Software tool comprising program code means stored on a computer readable medium for carrying out the method of anyone of claims 1 to 10 when said software tool is run on a computer or network device.

12. Computer program product comprising program code means stored on a computer
30   readable medium for carrying out the method of anyone of claims 1 to 10 when said program product is run on a computer or network device.

13. Computer program product comprising program code, downloadable from a server for carrying out the method of anyone of claims 1 to 10 when said program product is run on
35   a computer or network device.

14. Computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a program that

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instructs a computer to perform the steps of the method of anyone of claims 1 to 10.

15. Electronic device, comprising a user interface for entering words comprising:

a display (10) for displaying characters and entered characters and character strings,

5   an input device (4) for issuing commands to browse and select characters, and

a processing unit for controlling the operation of the user interface, the processing unit being connected to the display and configured to display characters on the display, the processing unit being further connected to the input device and configured to receive, from the input device, commands to browse and select characters, wherein said

10   processing unit is further configured to generate for browsing, a character subset made up of characters to be browsed, the character subset including the characters of a character set from among which, according to an inference logic configured into the processing unit, the next character for the word is most probably selected, and display the character subset on the display for browsing the characters and for selecting the next character by

15   using the input device,

characterized by a database of words and at least one usage parameter related to each of said words, wherein said database is connected to said processing unit, and wherein said processing unit is further configured to select said character subset according to said inference logic on the basis of said words and said related at least one usage parameter.

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16. Electronic device according to claim 15, wherein said processing unit is further configured to adapt the content of said database of words and said at least one parameter according to selections of a user received from said input device.

25   17. Electronic device as claimed in claim 15 or 16, characterized in that the input device for issuing commands to browse and select characters comprises at least one of the following:

a roller wherein browse commands are issued by rotating the roller around its axis, and/or wherein select commands are issued by pressing the roller,

30   a disc wherein browse commands are issued by rotating the disc coplanarly clockwise and anti-clockwise, and/or wherein select commands are issued by pressing the disc,

arrow buttons wherein browse commands are issued by pressing the arrow buttons,

a selection button wherein select commands are issued by pressing the selection button,

a joystick wherein browse and/or select commands are issued by moving the joystick,

35   a trackball wherein browse commands and/or select commands are issued by rotating the trackball, and/or wherein select commands are issued by pressing the trackball,

a touch pad wherein browse commands and/or select commands are issued by touching

the touch pad, or a dial slider.